SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Sound and Light programme was started during the time of Mr. A. R. Sharma, when he was the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation. Sir, when I asked the same question some time back with regard to the introduction of Sound and Light Show at Mahabalipuram, I was told that the Archaeological Department of India is standing in the way. I wrote a letter to the Archaeological Department and they told me that the entire atmosphere of the temple will definitely be spoiled if at all they introduced a show on the Sound and Light programme. Then I again wrote a letter stating that by introducing a Sound and Light show, the atmosphere will definitely be pleasant and colourful. I asked them to come and see it for themselves. When we had shown the Sound and Light programme at Mahabalipuram, the representatives of the Archaeological Department came to Mahabalipuram and they witnessed everything what all the State Government showed with regard to this Sound and Light programme. Then they stated that they were really pleased with that programme and that they were going to give permission for this. If it happened two and a half years back when our present Minister for Tourism was not the Minister concerned, he was then our Parliamentary Affairs Minister. I do not know what exactly happened between these two and a half years. I would like to know very specifically from our hon. Minister now what are the steps that they have taken to introduce the Sound and Light show at Mahabalipuram. They have come to state that the Archaeological Department is standing in way. I want to know exactly It was stated to us that they are not sanding in way. and specifically from the hon. Minister the answer to his question, who is standing in the way.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, the hon. Member has virtually confirmed what I stated, namely, that this matter was with the Archaeological Department. He said what they had told him that they had no objection. I will make this inquiry and submit a detailed statement before the House and I will do my best to see it through.

Setting up of a Commission for Economic Offences

*125. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a permanent and independent investigation commission for economic offences;

(b) if, so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

At present there is no proposal under Government's consideration to set up a permanent an independent investigation commission for economic offences. However, a Central Economic Intelligence Bureau headed by Director General and Additional Secretary has already been set up to strengthen the

intelligence gathering capabilities of the existing agencies under the Department of Revenue, identifying the organised economic offenders and individuals operating on large scale, preparing dossiers and planning and coordinating strike action by all the concerned agencies. Besides giving directional control to the investigating agencies within the Department of Revenue in such cases, the Bureau would be responsible for maintaining liaison with the concerned Departments and Didectorates both at the Centre and State Government level.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Sir, the tax evasion and economic offences are as bad as offences relating to sedition and the people involved in the crimes are so big sharks that it involves a complex process of detection. So, in this context, I would like to know from the Minister whether it will not be convenient to set up a permanent and independent body to go into the whole process of detection and also establish a separate judicial set up for taking stock of the offending crimes.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, this Bureau has been set up precisely for this, for dealing with these sharks and one of its assignments is to concentrate on this

So far as the question of setting up an independent body is concerned, I do not think, it will help. This is a body of the Government. We have assigned this duty to it. As far as the judicial system is concerned, certainly, after we detect them, we consign them to the judicial system.

*126. [*The questioner (Shri Jagdambi Prasad Yadav) was absent for answer.* vide col. ... infra.]

Blackmarketing in Banks in new Currency Notes

*127. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:†
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHWAHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rampant blackmarketing in new currency notes, particularly of Rs. 1 denomination, issued by the bank employees at a premium; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government have taken to check such malpractices in the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) There is a shortage of coins and small denomination notes and measures are being taken to increase production and availability. As per available information there is no black-marketing in the issue of notes by bank employees. A specific complaint against a particular branch manager was received sometime back and investigated. The complaint was not substantiated. It will be ensured that strictest action is taken against employees who are found to be indulging in malpractices.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि चंडीगढ़ में स्थित 8 बैंक्स स्टेट बैंक आफ इंडिया स्टेट बैंक आफ पटियाला, सेन्ट्रल बैंक, पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, पंजाब एंड सिंध बैंक, इलाहाबाद बैंक, आदि बैंकों को रेगुलरली नियमित रूप से रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया छोटे नोट्स सप्लाई करता रहा है, इशू करता रहा है तो क्या वहां से कोई उनकी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई है कि केवल बड़े

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Virendra Verma.